



Contents:

Budget Process Continues	2
Sex Offender Management	3
Re-Entry Roundtable	4
Rethinking Drinking and Healthy Lifestyles	5
Training Council Re-appointments	6
ERT Takes Honors at WV Mock Riot	6
People Make the Difference	7

BEVERLY SMITH HONORED WITH DIRECTOR'S AWARD

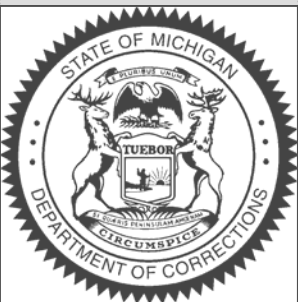
Field Operations Administration (FOA) Deputy Regional Administrator Beverly Smith was recognized with the Director's Award for Professional Excellence last week. Ms. Smith was recognized specifically for her ability to manage the case activity of some of Michigan's highest profile cases. In one case, Ms. Smith provided daily input including interaction with the judge, prosecutors and defense counsel; coordination of supervision activities with probation staff in Michigan and another supervising state, ensuring all reports were completed; testifying in court regarding the case; and dealing with restitution issues related to the case. She made herself available 24/7 for any issues that needed to be addressed. Ms. Smith handled the case professionally, exercising discretion and ensuring that the offender was treated fairly while the Department was seen in a positive light.



From Left: Director Richard M. McKeon, FOA Area Manager and Director's Award Recipient Beverly Smith and FOA Deputy Director John Rubitschun.

Ms. Smith started her career with the Department in 1987 as a probation agent in Wayne County. She advanced steadily in her career, holding positions in FOA as a supervisor, area manager and currently as deputy regional administrator. Her assignments have included Lahser District Probation, Special Services, Chrysler District Probation, Court Services, Southwest Probation, Washtenaw County Probation/Parole, and Outer District Parole. She is currently in charge of the largest parole office in the state - Lawton Parole, supervising over 4,000 parolees and delivering specialized services including electronic monitoring, polygraph examinations, transportation, sex offender GPS supervision, mental health supervision, and SAI supervision.

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F.Y.I. is a publication of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Office of Public Information and Communications. Please submit articles through your supervisor to John Cordell at cordelljc@michigan.gov

DIRECTOR'S AWARD (Continued from page 1)



Beverly Smith listens as Deputy Director Rubitschun reads her tribute letter.

Ms. Smith is an outstanding leader who possesses many of the best qualities in a successful leader. She is thoughtful, trustworthy, honest, intelligent, and compassionate, and she has a high degree of integrity. She demonstrates these traits on a daily basis in her interactions with staff, court employees, social service agencies, law enforcement, community partners and offenders. She has been an active participant in the FOA Metro Region Diversity Committee and in 2003, she was selected to participate in the

MDOC's Leadership Academy. She is also active in the new supervisor/manager committee, recommending training that enhances the skills of incoming supervisory staff.

Through her leadership, diligence and ability to effectively manage even the highest profile cases under her supervision, Beverly Smith has earned the Director's Award for Professional Excellence. Congratulations again to Deputy Regional Administrator Beverly Smith on her recognition. It is well deserved. If you know Ms. Smith, please congratulate her.



Director McKeon (right) congratulates Beverly Smith as she accepts her Director's Award.

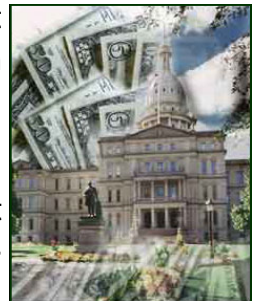
CORRECTIONS BUDGET BILLS PASSED BY HOUSE AND SENATE

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) fiscal year (FY) 2011-12 budget continues to move toward becoming a law as the Senate and House have both passed their respective bills.

There may be a conference committee convened to reconcile the bill prior to final passage in both chambers. Other options include providing a substitute bill that would match a version that has already been passed by one chamber of the legislature. This option would eliminate the need for a conference committee.

Final approval of the bill into law is carried out with Governor Snyder's signature. The Governor has the authority to veto specific lines of the budget bill prior to signing it into law. Any vetoed items can be overruled with a 2/3 vote of both chambers of the legislature. Governor Snyder has set a deadline of May 31 to have a two-year budget in place, though only the first year is legally binding.

Stay tuned to F.Y.I. for updates on the budget process as it unfolds.



FOA PROVIDES INSIGHT ON COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO MANAGE SEX OFFENDERS

The Michigan Department of Corrections - Field Operations Administration (FOA) continues to strive to achieve what research has proven to be best practices in sex offender management. FOA continues to improve by building collaborative relationships/partnerships with different entities so to have a more informed decision making and management process.

Research has shown that a collaborative approach to managing sex offenders enhances public safety and offender accountability. Sex Offender Case Management Teams (CMT) have been developed statewide in FOA. These teams include field agents, field supervisors, victim advocates, law enforcement, treatment providers, and polygraph examiners (where applicable). The CMT discusses cases together by sharing information freely about specific offenders and issues at hand. With CMTs, the staff is able to gain more information from various people who have a great level of expertise, hear other perspectives and ideas, and have support on the decisions made.

In 2006/2007, FOA partnered with Michigan State Police (MSP) Sex Offender Registration Enforcement (SORE) Unit, working closely with them on the Sex Offender Registration Notification Act (SORNA), the new federal guidelines created in response to the Adam Walsh Act which takes effect July 1, 2011. FOA also assists MSP with sex offender compliance sweeps. Our efforts to build these relationships have assisted in minimizing duplicative work between our agencies in verifying addresses of sex offenders as well as increasing our level of expertise in managing sex offenders by sharing knowledge and resources.



In 2008, FOA partnered with MI-ATSA (Michigan Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers). As a result of this partnership, staff has been able to participate in training opportunities that increases their knowledge base in sex offender management that may have never been afforded to them otherwise.

In October 2008, FOA partnered with MSP/Internet Crimes against Children Task Force. A law enforcement initiative focused on the investigation of online child exploitation. Michigan was the first ICAC Task Force in the nation to include corrections personnel. Currently, FOA has four field agents that serve on the ICAC Task Force: Charles Christenson, Richard Gallagher, Lenny Attar and Danelle Pigott. Agent Pigott was recently featured in the MSP News Bulletin for her efforts in the ICAC/SOR sweeps in Northern Michigan.

SEX OFFENDERS: FINDING MORE INFORMATION

The vast majority of Michigan's sex offenders are in compliance with their supervision and reporting requirements. However, there are some who continue to violate the law. Law enforcement officers and Michigan Department of Corrections field agents who supervise sex offenders agree that educating the public is paramount in fighting criminal behavior. You can enhance your awareness by visiting the Michigan State Police Web site or the Family Watchdog Web site. Both have valuable information and safety tips for you and your family. The links are:

<http://www.mipsor.state.mi.us>

<http://www.familywatchdog.us>

RE-ENTRY ROUNDTABLE: SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS & BETTER CITIZENS

Re-Entry Roundtable is a continuing column that provides news, facts, and program successes within the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative.

WASHTENAW MPRI HOSTS GRADUATION CEREMONY

"Every MPRI graduation is a very moving event. For the contractors, staff, interns, and volunteers, it is a 6-month booster shot, reminding us all why we do what we do. For the graduates, it marks the successful completion of a very difficult transition time - the first 6 months back in the community," said Mary King, Community Coordinator for Washtenaw MPRI.

Washtenaw MPRI's eighth graduation was held in a beautiful lobby and auditorium, graciously provided by Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital of Ann Arbor. The event began with a buffet style lunch prepared and served by MPRI staff and volunteers.

"This spring's graduation was made more lively by the inclusion of a pro-football player as the Keynote Speaker, Eric Hipple," said Ashley White, the coordinator for the ceremony. The former Detroit Lions quarterback personally congratulated the graduates, and spoke about the signs and symptoms of depression - something with which he has had personal experience. Reactions from some audience members (including some graduates) indicated that they had, too. He donated seven copies of his book *Real Men Do Cry*, which were raffled off to graduates. Hipple's remarks were met with a standing ovation.

Following Hipple's speech, AmeriCorps VISTA member Robby Berlin treated the audience to a vocal per-

formance of "Amazing Grace." Graduates then heard words of encouragement and accolades from Michigan Department of Corrections Regional Administrator Michael Alexander and Ann Arbor Parole Agent Deborah Palmer. Regional Administrator Alexander echoed Hipple's sentiments about the importance of asking for support! Agent Palmer invited the gradu-

ates she has worked with to "call me every now and then, to keep in touch."

MPRI Graduates came on stage to receive gift bags, certificates and handshakes, and were given the opportunity to say a few words. Many graduates thanked their agents, Resource Specialists and other MPRI volunteers and service providers. More than one graduate stated, "Without MPRI services,

I don't know where I'd be." Some were moved to tears.

Mary King provided the closing remarks, "Our honorees took advantage of the services that were available and then created their own success. Some served long sentences and had to learn to adjust to a changed world. Some served multiple sentences and are determined that this will be their last time in prison. All deserve our admiration and respect for succeeding where many before have failed. Congratulations to our graduates!"



From Left: Steve Matthews, Deborah Palmer, Mike Alexander, an MPRI graduate and Stacey Terrazas.
Photo Courtesy BesTimes Photo.

RETHINKING DRINKING - ALCOHOL AND YOUR HEALTH

BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN EMPLOYEE SERVICE PROGRAM

It seems as though there are conflicting opinions everywhere about the consumption of alcohol, particularly in response to the question of how much is "too much." The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism offers some objective, research based information to help answer this question. This research, published in their 2009 booklet *Rethinking Drinking*, includes guidelines for "low-risk" drinking. According to these guidelines, only about 2% of people who drink develop alcohol dependency (alcoholism) or alcohol abuse - drinking that results in repeated personal difficulties in one or more areas such as work, interpersonal relationships, and/or legal consequences.



"Low-risk" drinking is not "no-risk" drinking. Even moderate levels of drinking (2 drinks per day for men, 1 for women) can be too much in certain circumstances. Any amount of alcohol consumption can be potentially dangerous when driving, when operating equipment, when taking medication, for many medical conditions, including during pregnancy

or when trying to get pregnant. A pattern of using a seemingly small amount of alcohol as a stress reducer can sometimes develop into an unhealthy habit with harmful consequences.

What about your use of alcohol? Is it time to consider rethinking your drinking? The Employee Service Program invites you to use its Interactive Screening Program as a resource to help you with that decision. The screenings are free, confidential, and available online at www.michigan.gov/esp; click on Interactive Screening Program, and enter the keyword: "espmi." The telephone version of the screening is available by calling 1-800-887-5676. With either option you will receive immediate, customized feedback regarding your use of alcohol. If you have questions or would like to speak to a counselor, please contact your Employee Service Program at (517) 373-7630 or 1-800-521-1377. Professional counselors are available at no charge to confidentially assist you Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Courtesy: National Institutes of Health (2009). Rethinking Drinking - Alcohol and your health.

WOW HELPS FOCUS ON YOUR HEALTH!

The Working On Wellness (WOW) team reminds you that you can find seasonal recipes, links to your insurance carrier's health promotion options and more at the Working On Wellness (WOW) Web site:

<http://www.michigan.gov/workingonwellness>.

Do you have a healthy story to share? E-mail us at MCSC-WOW-WorkingOnWellness@michigan.gov.

For additional wellness information, link to current WELCOA (WELLNESS COUNCILS OF AMERICA) bulletins listed below.

- BETTER SAFE
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcs/BetterSafe_268609_7.pdf
- DAY IN & DAY OUT
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcs/DayInDayOut_268610_7.pdf
- NICKELS & DIMES
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcs/NickelsDimes_268612_7.pdf
- TO YOUR HEALTH
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcs/ToYourHealth_268611_7.pdf

GOVERNOR SNYDER RE-APPOINTS MEMBERS TO THE MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS OFFICERS' TRAINING COUNCIL

Governor Rick Snyder recently announced the reappointments of Sherry Burt and Jeremy Stephens to the Correctional Officers' Training Council.

The council develops minimum standards and requirements for state correctional officers.

"I look forward to the continued contributions of Sherry and Jeremy to the council and our state's correctional officers," Snyder said.

Burt, of Lansing, has served on the Council since 2008. She has more than 30 years of correctional officer experience and is currently warden at the Cooper Street Correctional Facility in Jackson. Burt has held similar positions at the Parnall Correctional Facility and the Southern Michigan Correctional Facility. She earned a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University. Burt represents the Michigan Department of Corrections and will serve a three-year term expiring March 29, 2014.

Stephens, of Dexter, was appointed by the Civil Service Commission in 2009 to serve as the State Personnel Director. Throughout his career, he has been responsible for negotiating labor contracts and managing employee relations programs with training and development and compensation. Stephens earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in human resources management from Central Michigan University. He will represent the state personnel director and serve a three-year term expiring March 29, 2014.

Appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

IONIA ERT MEMBERS SHINE AT MOCK RIOT

On the weekend of April 29 - May 1, 2011, four Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Emergency Response Team (ERT) members traveled to West Virginia on their own time and money to participate in the 15th Annual Mock Prison Riot Skills Competition. This is an international competition which included teams from Singapore, Estonia, Australia and the Bahamas to name a few.

The MDOC team, which included Aaron Patrick, Clint Slusser, Jacob Poindexter, and Scott Grinnell, participated in five skills scenarios which included a building clearing scenario, disruptive prisoner housing unit, low-light search and recovery, team pistol shoot and an obstacle course.

Despite only having four members to choose from, these members still managed to achieve a tie for 6th place overall with a Singapore team who won last year's event.

Ionia Complex ERT Team Leader Clint Slusser of the Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility won the individual SuperSWAT competition with a total time of 5:52:79. The next closest competitor was :42 seconds behind him.

The SuperSWAT competition consisted of navigating the obstacle course with two different stations to stop at and fire weapons. You also had to lift a 100 lb. dummy up to the third tier of a two-story fireman's station. After navigating the obstacle course, participants had to carry another 100 lb. dummy 150 yards to complete the event.



Clint Slusser with his SuperSWAT award.

OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT READINESS EMBRACES “BRING YOUR KIDS TO WORK DAY”



The Office of Employment Readiness (OER) celebrated "Bring Your Child to Work Day" in grand style. Children learned the jobs their parents do as well as doing some of the more routine assignments around the office. A certificate validating their hard work was given to each child, but the best part was the pizza lunch!

Taylor Lynlee Stinson and Alexis Rose DeHart have attended the event since 2007. Staff in the office remarked at how fast the children grow up and how they take on more “work” during the event as they mature. All of the kids had a great time again this year assisting their parents with daily work assignments.

Over the past several years, OER has always put an emphasis on this event. The employees are proud to share the work they do with their children, and are also proud to show off their children to coworkers who care about the event.



Above Left: Taylor Stinson - Robin Stinson's daughter, **Above Middle:** Alexis DeHart - Bill DeHart's daughter, **Above Right:** Hannah and Miriam Atteberry with OER Administrator Bill Wilson.

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

HONOR GUARD PAYS TRIBUTE TO FALLEN MICHIGAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS



The Michigan Department of Corrections Honor Guard recognized Michigan's fallen law enforcement officers at the 2011 Michigan Concerns of Police Survivors (MI-COPS) Candlelight Memorial on the steps of Michigan's Capital on May 2. Unit members joined other law enforcement honor guards and uniformed officers in providing a human backdrop during the service. Two unit members, Petra Lopez and Brandon Wenzel, were selected as wreath guard during the ceremony.

Nine Michigan officers who died in the line of duty were honored during the Roll Call of Heroes. They included Flint Police Officer David Williams, Detroit Police Officer Brian Huff, Border Patrol Agent Mark VanDoren, Taylor Police Cpl. Matthew Edwards, Taylor Police Lt. Dan Kromer, Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry, Livonia Police Officer Larry Nehasil, Michigan State Police Trooper Jeffrey Werda, and Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Officer Eric Zapata.



WOMEN'S HURON VALLEY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY EARNS HUMANITARIAN AWARD



Ellen Baron, a horticultural instructor at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility (WHV), accepted the "Gatherer of Plenty" award on behalf of the women involved in the horticultural program at the prison. Baron shed tears as she accepted the award. "Their tears, not mine," she said as she accepted the award for the women who grow food that is donated to *Food Gatherers* every year.

The program was started 10 years ago to give the women in the prison basic skills for entry-level jobs in the horticulture field.

"It's difficult to state the enormity of the impact that giving back to the community has on these women. The students are proud to contribute what little they have so someone who is worse off than they are does not have to go hungry that night, said Baron. "Thank you for providing the opportunity for them to redeem themselves in some small way. The opportunities feed our students' souls and, in a place that is notorious for poor attitudes, that's a wonderful thing."

WHV donated over 12,000 pounds of produce last year, accounting for 45% of the total donations to *Food Gatherers*. This made a significant impact on the fight against hunger.



At Top: Ms. Baron with Eileen Spring, President/CEO of Food Gatherers.

At Center: The "Gatherer of Plenty" award.

At Bottom: Ms. Baron with Congressman John D. Dingell.

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

F.Y.I. is always interested in the personal stories of success and triumph. If you or someone you know has done something significant, please let us know. While we all practice humility, there are some great success stories out there. So, if you have done something worth sharing, or if you conquered a difficult task, or helped someone in need, let F.Y.I. know. Sharing your story may be just what someone needs to take the initiative to help someone else and make their world a little better.

